

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for integrating communication modalities, the system
- 2 comprising:
- 3 (A) a standard telephone system;
- 4 (B) a standard legacy voicemail system;
- 5 (C) a digital voicemail store;
- 6 (D) a network access server (NAS) communicatively coupled to the telephone system,
- 7 the NAS being configured to receive analog voice signals from the telephone
- 8 system, the NAS further being configured to transmit analog voice signals to the
- 9 telephone system, the NAS further being configured to digitize the analog voice
- 10 signals, the NAS further being configured to transmit the digitized signals; and
- 11 (E) a digital messaging server (DMS) communicatively coupled to the NAS, the DMS
- 12 further being communicatively coupled to the digital voicemail store, the DMS
- 13 further being communicatively coupled to the legacy voicemail system, the DMS
- 14 being configured to receive the digitized signals from the NAS, the DMS further
- 15 being configured to transmit the digitized signals in the digital voicemail store, the
- 16 DMS further being configured to convert the digitized signal into an analog
- 17 message, the DMS further being configured to transmit the analog message to the
- 18 legacy voicemail system.

- 1 2. A system for integrating communication modalities, the system
2 comprising:
- 3 (A) a standard telephone system;
- 4 (B) a standard legacy voicemail system;
- 5 (C) a digital voicemail store; and
- 6 (D) a messaging server comprising:
- 7 (D1) means for receiving a voice signal from the standard telephone system;
- 8 (D2) means for conveying the analog signal to the standard legacy voicemail
9 system;
- 10 (D3) means for converting the analog signal into a digital signal; and
- 11 (D4) means for transmitting the digital signal to the digital voicemail store.

1 3. A system for integrating standard communication modalities, the system
2 comprising:

3 a first communication system configured to communicate using a first standard
4 communication protocol;

5 a second communication system configured to communicate using a second
6 standard communication protocol; and

7 a messaging server communicatively coupled to the first communication system,
8 the messaging server further being communicatively coupled to the second
9 communication system, the messaging server being configured to receive a first
10 communication from the first communication system using the first standard
11 communication protocol, the messaging server being further configured to convert the
12 first communication into a second communication, the second communication being
13 compatible with the second standard communication protocol, the messaging server being
14 further configured to transmit the second communication to the second communication
15 system using the second standard communication protocol.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the conversion of the first communication
2 into the second communication occurs substantially synchronously with the receiving of
3 the first communication.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the transmission of the second
2 communication occurs substantially synchronously with the converting of the first
3 communication into the second communication.

1 6. The system of claim 3, wherein the first communication system is an
2 Internet call waiting (ICW) system.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the second communication system is a
2 legacy voicemail system.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the second communication system is an
2 email system.

1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the second communication system is an
2 instant messaging (IM) system.

1 10. The system of claim 3, wherein the first communication system is a legacy
2 voicemail system.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the second communication system is an
2 email system.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the second communication system is an
2 instant messaging (IM) system.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the second communication system is an
2 Internet call waiting (ICW) system.

1 14. The system of claim 3, wherein the first communication system is an email
2 system.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the second communication system is a
2 legacy voicemail system.

1 16. The system of claim 3, wherein the first communication system is an
2 instant messaging (IM) system.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the second communication system is a
2 legacy voicemail system.

1 18. The system of claim 3, further comprising a third communication system
2 configured to communicate using a third standard communication protocol, wherein the
3 messaging server is further communicatively coupled to the third communication system,
4 the messaging server being further configured to convert the first communication into a
5 third communication, the third communication being compatible with the third standard
6 communication protocol, the messaging server being further configured to transmit the
7 third communication to the third communication system using the third standard
8 communication protocol.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the transmission of the second
2 communication is substantially synchronous with the transmission of the third
3 communication.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the conversion of the first communication
2 into the third communication occurs substantially synchronously with the receiving of the
3 first communication.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the transmission of the third
2 communication occurs substantially synchronously with the converting of the first
3 communication into the third communication.

1 22. The system of claim 18:
2 wherein the first communication system is different from the second
3 communication system;
4 wherein the second communication system is different from the third
5 communication system;
6 wherein the third communication system is different from the first communication
7 system; and
8 wherein the first communication system, the second communication system, and
9 the third communication system are each selected from the group consisting of:
10 a public switched telephone network (PSTN) telephone system;
11 a cellular telephone system;
12 an email system;
13 an instant messaging (IM) system;
14 an Internet call waiting (ICW) system; and
15 an legacy voicemail system.

1 23. The system of claim 18, the first communication system being selected
2 from the group consisting of:
3 a public switched telephone network (PSTN) telephone system;
4 a cellular telephone system;
5 an Internet call waiting (ICW) system; and
6 the second communication system being different from the first communication
7 system, the second communication system being selected from the group consisting of:
8 a public switched telephone network (PSTN) telephone system;
9 a cellular telephone system;
10 an email system;
11 an instant messaging (IM) system;
12 an Internet call waiting (ICW) system; and
13 an legacy voicemail system; and
14 the third communication system being different from the second communication
15 system, the third communication system further being different from the second
16 communication system, the third communication system being selected from the group
17 consisting of:
18 a public switched telephone network (PSTN) telephone system;
19 a cellular telephone system;
20 an email system;
21 an instant messaging (IM) system;
22 an Internet call waiting (ICW) system; and
23 an legacy voicemail system.

1 24. A method for integrating standard communication modalities, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a first communication from a first communication system, the first
4 communication being compatible with a first standard communication protocol;

5 converting the first communication into a second communication at a messaging
6 server, the second communication being compatible with a second standard
7 communication protocol; and

8 transmitting the second communication to a second communication system using
9 the second standard communication protocol.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of receiving the first
2 communication and the step of converting the first communication into the second
3 communication occur substantially synchronously.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of converting the first
2 communication into the second communication and the step of transmitting the second
3 communication occur substantially synchronously.

1 27. The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:
2 converting the first communication into a third communication, the third
3 communication being compatible with a third standard communication protocol; and
4 transmitting the third communication to a third communication system using the
5 third standard communication protocol.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of transmitting the second
2 communication and the step of transmitting the third communication occur substantially
3 synchronously.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of receiving the first
2 communication and the step of converting the first communication into the third
3 communication occur substantially synchronously.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of converting the first
2 communication into the third communication and the step of transmitting the third
3 communication occur substantially synchronously.